

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, February 13, 2025

A meeting was held by the Nantucket Water Commission on Thursday, February 13, 2025, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl were present. *Commissioners Absent:* Rob Benchley. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, and Linda Roberts Project Coordinator. *Public:* Emily Molden Executive Director for the Nantucket Land & Water Council and Meg Miller Ruley.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously accepted the agenda as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** Emily Molden attended the meeting in her position as the Director of the Nantucket Land and Water Council. Ms. Molden came to talk about her council's concerns with the Surfside Crossing project with any potential harmful impacts to water quality. She noted Weston & Sampson sent a letter to the Nantucket Zoning Board of Appeals asking that the project meet the minimum requirements for storm water management and maintenance. Ms. Molden doesn't feel the bare minimum is satisfactory and would like the Water Commission to approve a comment to be above and beyond these requirements. Discussion by the Commissioners noted that we do not have the ability to change state or local regulations. spoke about her concerns with developments within the Zone II area and the review processes with Town Boards and department heads. Ms. Molden's presence was to elevate the Nantucket Land and Water Councils level of concern. Director Willett will be present at the ZBA's meeting. Director Willett meets and works with David Gray, the Sewer Director and Charles Johnson who is the Storm Water Director to improve storm the systems. Some of these systems include swales, infiltrators, and berms. There is no enforcement for those who do not maintain or cleanout their storm drains. After discussion and recognizing that such concerns were not raised in prior projects, the commissioners felt considering the cumulative growth in recent years they should raise concerns. Director Willett has not seen the engineers' reports submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals. While Director Willet is a hydrologist and could run the calculations, this would be determined by storm water engineer. Motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Pearl and unanimously voted to have the Director write something and express the commissioners concerns about storm water and that water is protected. Ms. Ruley provided updates on the DEP sampling and the meetings she has attended. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Molden for coming.
4. **Review of Minutes from January 9, 2025 and January 29, 2025.** The minutes from the January 9, 2025, and the January 29, 2025, meetings were reviewed, and the motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl and unanimously voted to approve as presented.
5. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Water Quality, Mass DEP:** The Director reviewed the production, billing and rain fall reports. We have had 0.09 inches of precipitation for January. We might remain at level one for drought conditions. A level II has restrictions and if we move to level III there no outside water use is permitted. The DEP will be mandating a tiered billing system within two years so we will want to start before it is mandated. Production is right where we should be for this time of the year. Coming up on our slowest week for school vacation in

February. The pumps are running as usual for the off season. The additional monthly sampling changes have increased our costs for 2025. Dr. Person and the well drillers will be returning to the island on March 17. They are investigating water beneath the ocean off of the south shore. Director Willett has been working with the Town's Finance Director on emergency procurement and access to retained earnings funds for PFAS treatment. ECT2 company will have the treatment materials held for us and we will have Barrett Enterprises for excavation for the pad and pipe. The materials will be shipped from Maine next week and Bamber Trucking has reservations for the Steamship and will bring them to the island. We will use a local contractor to pour the pad and have the system up before the busy season. Director Willett provided a detailed overview of the treatment filtration, and the right resin needed for our system. The life expectancy for the resin is ten years; however, we will replace them every four to five years. The system will be built with two extra tanks to allow for additional treatment. Commissioners commended the Director on his proactive leadership.

- b. **Sewer Force Main Update:** The Director updated the Commission on the sewer force main projects which are being done by Robert B Our and CMON work being done by N&M. Work continues Liberty and Gardner Streets. Dean and Bob from N&M are wrapping up work on Pleasant and Williams Streets. Drainage work for the catch basin collection and infiltrators continues with the States reconstruction of the Polpis and Milestone turning lanes and bike path. Supplies and materials are being stored on Wannacomet property.
 - c. **Main Extensions:** Director Willett provided a budget review for the new fiscal year 2026. The review had department goals, initiatives, current year accomplishments, and five-year outlook, capital needs and streets identified for water mains or extensions due to PFAS impacted areas. The costs of extensions is either done by the owners or we divide seventy percent of the costs by the anticipated number of property owners who plan to tie in.
- 6. **Discussion, amendment, and execution of any personnel or vendor contracts:** None.
 - 7. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** None.
 - 8. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Barnes made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously voted to end the regular business meeting at 9:33 AM.

Approved: Allen B Reinhard Date: April 10, 2025
The meeting packet included 2/13/25 Agenda, reports and information from the mondo including images of treatment systems and the FY 2026 Budget Presentation.